

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 INR-10 INRE-00

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O: JSEGARS INR/CIS: DROBERTS: JS

APPROVED BY S/S-O: RKUCHEL

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O 090948Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147114

TOSEC 431

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ADDENDUM TO SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 14/TOSEC 412

LIBERALS WIN CANADIAN ELECTION: LATEST REPORTS SHOW 133 LIBERAL CANDIDATES ELECTED AND AT LEAST SEVEN MORE LEADING, GIVING THE LIBERALS AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE 264-SEAT CANADIAN PARLIAMENT. THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES HAVE ELECTED 89 AND ARE LEADING IN FIVE OTHER RACES. (IN THE LAST PARLIAMENT, THE LIBERALS HAD 109 SEATS TO THE CONSERVATIVES' 107.) THE NEW DEMOCRATS HAVE ELECTED 15 AND ARE LEADING IN ONE RACE, AND THE SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY HAS ELECTED 12. THE LIBERALS SWEEPED EASTERN CANADA, PICKING UP MORE THAN TWO DOZEN SEATS IN ONTARIO, QUEBEC, AND THE TRADITIONALLY-CONSERVATIVE MARITIME PROVINCES. (TICKER)

COMMENT: THIS ELECTION CONFOUNDED NEARLY ALL PROGNOSTICATORS: FEW THOUGHT THE LIBERALS WOULD OBTAIN AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. THE ELECTION WAS PROBABLY DECIDED MAINLY ON PERSONALITIES, WITH PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU DISPLAYING ANEW THE PERSONAL MAGNETISM HE HAD IN THE 1968 ELECTIONS BUT SEEMED TO LOSE IN 1972. MRS. TRUDEAU WAS A BIG HELP IN THIS REGARD TOO.

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ROBERTS,ANSFIELD MAY WELL BE REPLACED IN THE NEAR FUTURE
AS CONSERVATIVE LEADER, HAVING LED HIS PARTY TO ITS THIRD
CONSECUTIVE DEFEAT BY TRUDEAU'S LIBERALS. HE SPENT THE

WHOLE CAMPAIGN TRYING TO EXPLAIN THE NECESSITY FOR WAGE AND
PRICE CONTROLS, BUT THE VOTERS WERE CLEARLY SKEPTICAL OF
HIS PLAN FROM THE START AND CLEARLY REJECTED IT IN THE END.
DAVID LEWIS MIGHT ALSO LOSE HIS POSITION AS LEADER OF THE
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH LOST HALF ITS SEATS, INCLUDING
LEWIS' OWN.

ALTHOUGH TRUDEAU REMAINS WEAK ON THE WESTERN PROVINCES,
THE LIBERALS' CLEAR VICTORY IN ONTARIO--WHERE THEY HAD
SUFFERED SEVERE LOSSES IN 1972--WILL HELP PROTECT THE
GOVERNMENT FROM THE CHARGE OF BEING QUEBEC-ORIENTED. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC 431
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE147114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: JSEGARS INR/CIS: DROBERTS: JS
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740181-1098
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740764/aaaacdaz.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDENDUM TO SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 14/TOSEC 412 LIBERALS WIN CANADIAN ELECTION: LATEST REPORTS SHOW 133
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005